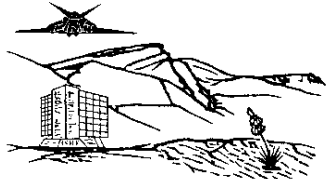


Local Government  
Otero County



**COUNTY OF OTERO**

1000 NEW YORK AVENUE, ROOM 101  
ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO 88310-6935

JAN 07 RECEIVED

Mr. Andy Vliet, Commander  
U. S. Army Air Defense Center  
ATTN: ATZ-C-CSA  
Ft. Bliss, Texas 79916

Re: Copy of letter supporting McGregor Range Land Withdrawal

Dear Mr. Vliet:

Enclosed is a copy of one of the letters we sent out in support of the McGregor Range Land Withdrawal.

If you have any questions or need further information, please call me at (505) 437-7427.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Zierlein  
Otero County Commissioner

RLZ/kmd

enclosure (1)

Local Government  
Otero County

1-21-99 10:05am From:OTERO COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

+5054376542

T-010 P.03/03 F-206



**COUNTY OF OTERO**

1006 NEW YORK AVENUE, ROOM 101  
ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO 88310-6935

January 7, 1999

Chamber of Commerce  
Mr. Ed Brabson, President  
1301 N. White Sands Blvd.  
Alamogordo, NM 88310

Dear Mr. Brabson:

The Board of County Commissioners in Otero County are making an official statement of continued withdrawal of McGregor Range with the Army's proposed action, which renews for a period of 50 years beginning in 2001. McGregor Range's boundaries as they are today.

We fully support the withdrawal for continued military use. Further, we have requested cooperating agency status to assist in the withdrawal process of such use.

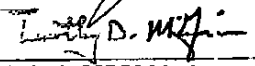
The installations are critical components of our economy and valuable to national defense. They are also a vital asset to Alamogordo.

Otero County fully supports Hoaman Air Force Base, Fort Bliss, and White Sands Missile Range.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RONNY RARDIN, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RICHARD L. ZIERLEIN, Vice-Chairman

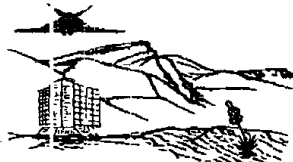
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TIMOTHY MCGINN, Member

Local Government  
Otero County

02-09-98 10:24am From:OTERO COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

+5054376542

T-078 P. 02/03 F-338



**COUNTY OF OTERO**

1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, ROOM 101  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 88310-6936

FEB 9 1999

February 4, 1999

Dr. Andrew Vliet, Dphil  
Program Manager-McGregor Renewal  
P.O. Box 6020  
Fort Bliss, Texas 79916

Re: McGregor Range Land Withdrawal  
Legislative Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Dr. Vliet:

Previously, the Board of County Commissioners have written and expressed our preference for Option I as set forth in the above referenced document. Nevertheless, we would like to express the following additional comments:

1. We are concerned that the document does not adequately recognize or assess the impacts on potential Private Property Rights that may exist in the area. As you are aware, at least one Federal Court has recognized Property Rights in permits, water rights, and improvements put on rangelands by various permittees.  
  
The long-term use and practices that have sustained cattle growers and other land uses on the Range should be explicitly recognized and provided for in the legislation that implements the Withdrawal.
2. The processes that have resulted in this document as well as a number of other planning efforts by the military establishment, the BLM, Forest Service and other Federal agencies have been fragmented to date.

80. Section 3.7.1 summarizes the surface water rights as described in the *McGregor Range Water Requirements and Resources Assessment* dated October 1998. Additional material from this document to include Table 6-1, *Surface Water Rights Associated with McGregor Range*, and the discussion of groundwater rights was included in the text of Sections 3.7.1 and 3.7.2 of the final LEIS. This new table describes 17 surface water rights held by the federal government, communities, and private individuals and organizations.
81. Long-term use and practices that have sustained cattle growers and other land uses on McGregor Range have been recognized in the legislation regarding the current withdrawal (PL 99-606) in that Section 3, *Management of Withdrawn Lands*, provides for grazing, protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat, control of predatory and other animals, recreation, and the suppression of brush and range fires. The Act also provides that all nonmilitary uses of withdrawn land is subject to such conditions and restrictions as necessary to permit the military use of such lands. The Army proposal for withdrawn land under each alternative incorporates the BLM's McGregor Range RMPA that resulted from PL 99-606. In this manner, these uses are explicitly proposed for the forthcoming legislation.
82. Federal government planning is specific to each department and as a result, is often unknown to other departments. In this LEIS, the Army has included as many actions of federal, state, and local governments, as well as local organizations as could be identified. Those actions with sufficient available information were included in the cumulative effects discussion in Chapter 4 of the LEIS.

Local Government  
Otero County

02-08-99 10:24am From-OTERO COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

+5054378542

T-078 P.03/03 F-338

Dr. Andrew Vliet, DPhil  
February 4, 1999

Page 2

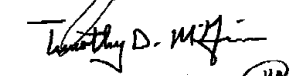
An effort should be made to plan the entire south west area as a unified whole so that local citizens can be adequately informed as to the entirety of the impacts they are likely to suffer from. We believe that NHPA requires such an approach.

3. As co-managers of the area, the BLM and military should be very careful to ensure that all statutory requirements are fulfilled in planning for the area especially in determining the effect those decisions will have on Otero County. The County should be included in any NHPA or FLPMA processes occurring with respect to the area.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OTERO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

  
Ronny Rardin, Chairman

  
Richard L. Zierlein, Vice-Chairman

  
Timothy D. McGinn, Member

83. The Army appreciates Otero County's comment and considered it during preparation of the final LEIS. It has become a part of this public comment response document for congressional review. However, evaluation of the entire southwest as a whole is beyond the scope of the NEPA requirement relative to the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal.
84. The Army appreciates Otero County's involvement in the environmental analysis process for the renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal. The Army will continue to include Otero County in its development of actions subject to public or agency coordination or review under NEPA or the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)*.